

We Claim:

1. An unimpeachable chain of custody method, comprising:

providing a confirmation authentication system to facilitate the receiving and storing of a communication signal indicative of an evidentiary item captured at a determined location and at a determined time and to facilitate the generating and transmitting of a chain of custody confirmation signal that said communication signal has been authenticated and stored for subsequent retrieval; and

providing a transportable input system having a positioning device and communication means to facilitate generating and transmitting in response to receiving said chain of custody confirmation signal, said communication signal and to facilitate generating an authentication signal that said communication signal was generated by said input system at about said determined location and at about said determined time.

2. An unimpeachable chain of custody method according to claim 1, further comprising:

said input system being disabled from generating another communication signal until another chain of custody confirmation signal has been generated by said confirmation authentication system and received by said input system.

3. An unimpeachable chain of custody method according to claim 2, further comprising:

providing an indication that said input system is enabled to generate said another communication signal.

4. An unimpeachable chain of custody method according to claim 2,
further comprising:

providing an indication that said input system is disabled from
generating said another communication signal.

5. An unimpeachable chain of custody method according to claim 1,
wherein said step of providing said transportable input system includes:
enabling said input system to generate said communication signal for a
predetermined chain of custody period of time; and
disabling said input system from generating said another
communication signal for another predetermined chain of custody period of
time.

6. A chain of custody system, comprising:

a confirmation authentication system for receiving and storing a
communication signal indicative of an evidentiary item captured at a
determined location and at a determined time;

said confirmation authentication system further for generating and
transmitting of a chain of custody confirmation signal that said communication
signal has been authenticated and stored for subsequent retrieval; and

a transportable input system having a positioning device and a
communication device to facilitate generating and transmitting in response to
receiving said chain of custody confirmation signal, said communication
signal and to facilitate generating an authentication signal that said
communication signal was generated by said input system at about said
determined location and at about said determined time.

7. A chain of custody system according to claim 6, further comprising:

a disabling arrangement for preventing said input system from generating another communication signal until another chain of custody confirmation signal has been generated by said confirmation authentication system and received by said input system.

8. A chain of custody system according to claim 7, further comprising:

a device for providing an indication that said input system is enabled to generate said another communication signal.

9. A chain of custody system according to claim 6, wherein said transportable input system includes:

an enabling arrangement to permit said input system to generate said communication signal for a predetermined chain of custody period of time; and

a disabling arrangement to prevent said input system from generating another communication signal for another predetermined chain of custody period of time.

10. An unimpeachable chain of custody method, comprising:

generating an information signal indicative of an evidentiary item captured at a determined location and at a determined time;

transmitting said information signal to a remote confirmation system;

generating a confirmation signal verifying that said information signal has been received and stored at said remote confirmation system; and

responding to said information signal by generating an actuation signal to capture another evidentiary item at another determined location and at another determined time.

1 11. An unimpeachable chain of custody system, comprising:

2
3 means for generating an information signal indicative of an evidentiary
4 item captured at a determined location and at a determined time;

5 means for transmitting said information signal to a remote confirmation
6 system;

7 means for generating a confirmation signal verifying that said
8 information signal has been received and stored at said remote confirmation
9 system; and

10 means for responding to said confirmation signal by generating an
11 actuation signal to capture another evidentiary item at another determined
12 location and at another determined time.

1 12. A system for authenticating evidentiary items, comprising:

2
3 a remote confirmation system for receiving and storing an uploaded
4 digital signal indicative of an evidentiary item captured at a determined
5 location at a determined time;

6 said remote confirmation system generating and transmitting a
7 verification signal that said uploaded digital signal has been received and
8 stored; and

9 an evidentiary transmission system responsive to said verification
10 signal and a user activation signal for determining another capture location
11 and another capture time of another evidentiary item and for uploading
12 another digital signal to said remote confirmation system.

1 13. A system for authenticating evidentiary items according to claim
2 12, wherein said evidentiary transmission system includes:
3 an input capture device for generating an information signal indicative
4 of at least a portion of said uploaded digital signal.
5 a position device responsive to the activation of said input device for
6 determining the capture location and capture time of said evidentiary item;
7 and
8 wherein said remote confirmation system includes:
9 a server for receiving and storing the uploaded digital signal; and
10 another transmission device responsive to said server to facilitate
11 providing said input device with said verification signal.

1 14. A system for authenticating evidentiary items according to claim
2 12, further comprising:
3
4 a public access server for providing upon public request an
5 unauthenticated hardcopy record of said evidentiary item; and
6 a private access server for providing upon private request an
7 unimpeachable hardcopy record indicative of said evidentiary item captured
8 at said determined capture location and at said determined capture time.